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Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CU-02 PA-01 PRS-01
ARA-06 EA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 L-03 /077 W
----------171833Z 068282 /43
R 171538Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 703
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY KAJARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPKO 0913

PARIS PASS UNESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UN, US
SUBJECT: NON-AIGNED NEWS AGENCY POOL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

REF (A) STATE 4036, (B) STATE 8416 (C) CAIRO 471 (D) CAIRO 584
(E) CAIRO 651

1. NON-ALIGNED NEWS AGENCY POOL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MET JAN 10-13 IN CAIRO. AS REQUESTED REF B, COMMITTEE'S PRESS RELEASE (INCLUDING LIST OF DELEGATES) AND FINAL REPORT ARE BEING POUCHED TO IO/ML. ALL SESSIONS WERE CLOSED EXCEPT THOSE AT WICH WELCOMING SPEECHES WERE GIVEN BY EGYPTIAN DIGNITARIES. FINAL REPORT, GIVEN TO US BY INDONESIAN EMBASSY, SEEMS TO BE CONDIFENTIAL , THOUGH COPIES ARE NOT DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN.
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A. MEMBERSHIP: THIRTEEN NEWS AGENCIES WERE REPRESENTED-- INDIA, PERU, INDONESIA, ZAIRE, GHANA, MAURITIUS, EGYPT, MEXICO, SENEGAL, TUNISIA, YUGOSLAVIA, AND NORTH VIET NAM. ALL DELEGATION HEADS, ACCORDING TO COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS, ARE NEWS AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A HIGH-LEVEL INDIAN DELEGATION, HEADED BY "PRIMIN'S SPECIAL ENVOY"

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MUHAMMAD YUNIS, AND MAURITIUS AND SENEGAL, WHOSE DELS HEADED BY DIPLOMATS POSTED IN CAIRO. ALGERIA, ADMITTED TO "OBSERVER STATUS" DID NOT SEND DEL. UNESCO DELEGATE ADDRESSED CONFERENCE BUT LEFT BEFORE FINAL SESSION:

B. POINTS OF VIEW: TOPIC OF THE HOUR WAS TO DECIDE WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE SPECIFIED HEADQUARTERS FOR NEWS SHARING OR SIMPLY GREATER EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN THE THIRD WORLD AGENCIES. COMPROMISE WAS REACHED UNDER WHICH THERE WILL BE 14 "REGIONAL" CENTERS. EACH OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES'

NEWS AGENCIES WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISSEMINATING NEWS RECEIVED FROM THE OTHER 13. (REUTER'S CAIRO BUREAU CHIEF POINTS OUT THAT LIKELY RESULT WILL BE THAT FOUR NORTH AFRICAN REGIONAL CENTERS (MOROCCO, TUNISIA, EGYPT AND ALGERIA) WILL BE PASSING BACK AND FORTH THE SAME INFORMATION.

TWO OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS WERE NOT RESOLVED. YUGOSLAVS URGED COOPERATION WITH WESTERN NEWS AGENCIES (E.G., USING ESTABLISHED WESTERN NEWS AGENCY FACILITIES), A PROPOSAL TO WHICH INDIA VIOLENTLY OBJECTED, URGING IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING INDEPENDENCE OF THIRD WORLD NEWS AGENCIES.

YUGOSLAVIA ALSO SUGGESTED THAT PURPOSE OF POOL SHOULD NOT ONLY BE TO ENSURE DISSEMINATION OF NEWS IN THIRD WORLD, BUT ALSO TO ENSURE FLOW OF THIRD WORLD NEWS TO THE WEST. AGAIN, INDIA OBJECTED, CLAIMING SUCH NEWS FLOW WOULD INEVITABLY BE DISTORTED BY WESTERN RECIPIENTS.

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C. CONTENDERS FOR LEADERSHIP: WHILE SOME EXPECTED CUBANS AND ALGERIANS TO BE MOST VOCIFEROUS OF THOSE DEMANDING POOL BE USED TO SUPLPLANT EXISTING INTERNATIONAL MEDIA SOURCES, IT WAS APPARENTLY THE INDIANS WHO MADE ALMOST ALL THE RUNNING. INDIANS WERE EAGER TO ESTABLISH NEW DELHI AS CENTRAL "TURNTABLE" FOR DISSEMINATION NEWS. WHILE YUGOLSAVS WOULD PRESUMABLY NOT HAVE BEEN ADVERSE TO BELGRADE PLAYING SUCH ROLE, THEY APPARENTLY DID NOT PUSH FOR IT.

D. FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS: ACCORDING TO INDONESIAN EMBASSY, "EVERYBODY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING HIS WON BILLS."

E. STATE CONTROL OF NATIONAL-INTERNATIONAL MEDIA: TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS ISSUE WAS NOT RAISED AND IS NOT RELEVANT TO SUBJECT CONFERENCE.

F. GOE VIEWS: SINCE EGHPTIAN DEL HEAD, WHO IS ALOS MENA

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CHAIRMAN, HAS BEEN BUSY WITH ARAB NEWS AGENCY CONFERENCE OVER WEEKEND, HE HAS HAD TO POSTPONE APPOINTMENT WITH EMBOFF UNTIL JAN. 18. BOTH REUTER AND UPI BUREAU CHIEFS IN CAIRO TELL US, HOWVER, THAT GOE FAR FROM PREOCCUPIED WITH NEWS AGENCY POOL NOTION. THIS JUDGEMENT BORNE OUT BY FACT THAT MFA'S "IO" CHIEF TURNED OVER ALL RESPONSIBILITY OF CONFERENCE TO MINFINFO, AND ON JAN 17 PROFESSED TO KNOW ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ABOUT RESULTS OR ACTIVITIES OF CONFERENCE.

2. COMMENT: BOTH REUTER AND UPI BUREAUS CHIEFS BELIEVE REGIONAL CONCEPT IS ABSURD, UNNECESSARILY OBERBURDENING SLIM RESOURCES OF PARTICIPANT NEWS AGENCIES. NEITHER BELIEVES HIS AGENCY'S OPERATIONS WILL BE IN ANY WAY AFFECTED BY OUTCOME OF CONFERENCE.
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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